



# Ramapo River at Mahwah, NJ and Suffern, NY Flood Damage Reduction Project

As of: February 2012

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## DESCRIPTION

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Flooding has occurred frequently on the Ramapo River, with flood events in 1968, 1971, 1973, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1996, and 1999. The 1977 and 1984 floods were the most severe causing extensive damages to the project area. Tropical Storm Floyd in September 1999 also caused significant damage.

The authorized project involves the construction of features for flood protection totaling 13,000 feet along portions of the Ramapo River, Mahwah River, and Masonicus Brook in Mahwah, New Jersey and Suffern, New York. The modifications include the widening and deepening of the channels, sheet pile walls, and bridge modifications. The project will provide protection to residential, commercial, and industrial developments in Mahwah and in Suffern. The non-Federal sponsors of the project are the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [NJDEP] and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC].

**AUTHORIZATION:** The Ramapo River and Mahwah Rivers Flood Control Project is authorized for construction under the Water Resources Development Act [WRDA] of 1986 [Public Law 99-662].

**STATUS:** A project design memorandum was completed and approved in September 1987. Plans and specifications were substantially complete in 1990. Construction funds were appropriated, but work was never initiated due to the lack of Project Cooperation Agreements between the New York District and the non-Federal sponsors.

After the flooding in 1999, the involved States, counties, and towns expressed interest in resuming the project. Letters of support from New York and New Jersey documented the interest and requested an update of the project to determine whether further interest is warranted. Funds were appropriated in Fiscal Year 2001 and coordination with the interested parties was initiated. Initially, a Limited Reevaluation Report was being prepared, but a General Reevaluation Report must now be prepared as the changed conditions and the potential for new alternatives requires a more detailed reformulation of the authorized plan. A draft project management plan [PMP] has been developed and is currently being coordinated with the NJDEP and NYSDEC. Cooperation Agreements, with the non-Federal sponsors, necessary to continue with this project, have not yet been executed. Currently, a topographic survey had been prepared. An existing conditions hydrology and hydraulics have been completed. Preliminary environmental studies and formulation efforts are ready to start upon execution of a Cooperation Agreement. In addition to the update of the authorized project, other alternatives to be considered include nonstructural measures, levees and floodwalls, detention at an existing quarry, and river and stream corridor environmental restoration. Future work is dependent on the availability of funds [both Federal and non-Federal] and execution of a Cooperation Agreement.

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**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:** Congressional Districts: NJ-05, NY-17